

# NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



## Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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### German Labeling Regulations

According to advices received by the Foodstuffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, the German labeling regulations have been further modified so that the requirement for stating the time of packing fish preserves, including marinated fish, is waived if, on the package or container, separate from the other statements and at a prominent place, the plain, non-effaceable statement is applied "Kuehl aufzubewahren, zum alsbaldigen Verbrauch bestimmt" (To be kept at a cool place, intended for early use); with sardines (*clupea pilchardus*) preserved by heating in oil, it will suffice to state instead of the weight, the number of fish packed.

As stated in the Information Letter for March 31, the effective date of these new regulations as applied to imported goods has been postponed until July first. The regulations were described in the Information Letters for November 12, 1927, and March 24, 1928.

### Reprint of Bulletin on Box Specifications

The Conference Committee at its meeting in Chicago during the annual convention of the National Canners Association recommended that all contracts for the purchases of canned foods bear a notation to the effect that the containers shall be in accordance with standard specifications printed in U. S. Food Administration Canned Foods Division Bulletin No. 40, and that

such specifications are a part of the contract. These specifications were published as Bulletin No. 47 of the National Cannery Association and are now out of print. They have therefore been reprinted for the information of canners who may not have copies of the earlier bulletins. Members who desire copies of the reprint may obtain them upon request to the Association's office.

### Canners' Stocks of Corn, Peas, and Tomatoes

Stocks of canned corn, peas, and tomatoes in canners' hands on April 1, 1928, as reported by 132 corn canners, 83 pea canners, and 177 tomato canners have been issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The reports of these canners show smaller stocks of corn and peas, and larger stocks of tomatoes as compared with April 1, 1927. The figures issued by the Bureau follow:

CORN	North Atlantic	North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Far Western	United States
Number of firms reporting stocks on hand April 1, 1928 (a) ....	34	73	23	.....	.....	132
Acreage in 1927 of firms reporting on stocks .....	11,613	67,324	10,190	.....	.....	89,917
Estimated acreage in 1927 of all canners .....	81,000	144,530	31,000	2,700	1,600	213,830
Per cent of total acreage represented by canners reporting ....	34	47	33	.....	.....	42
Stocks held by reporting firms April 1, 1928 .....	209,431	1,631,804	32,980	.....	.....	1,916,205
Stocks reported by same firms in 1927 (b) .....	521,790	2,710,702	212,806	.....	.....	2,451,298
Percentage of stocks on hand Apr. 1, 1928, compared with 1927 ..	40	61	23	.....	.....	56
PEAS						
Number of firms reporting stocks on hand April 1, 1928 (a) .....	22	50	8	.....	3	83
Acreage in 1927 of firms reporting on stocks .....	7,238	37,732	1,625	.....	4,545	51,180
Estimated acreage in 1927 of all canners .....	28,050	108,360	9,500	800	15,880	162,790
Per cent of total acreage represented by canners reporting ..	26	35	17	.....	29	31
Stocks held by reporting firms April 1, 1928 .....	270,703	860,115	11,963	.....	11,121	1,153,906
Stocks reported by same firms in 1927 (b) .....	410,715	1,704,379	39,231	.....	269,104	2,425,647
Percentage of stocks on hand Apr. 1, 1928, compared with 1927 ..	66	50	30	.....	4	46
TOMATOES						
Number of firms reporting stocks on hand April 1, 1928 (a) ....	38	44	53	28	17	177
Acreage in 1927 of firms reporting on stocks .....	3,886	18,563	5,221	5,972	13,993	49,177
Estimated acreage in 1927 of all canners .....	42,420	82,518	57,198	27,385	36,620	246,030
Per cent of total acreage represented by canners reporting ..	9	22	9	22	43	20
Stocks held by reporting firms April 1, 1928 .....	139,109	230,341	313,210	74,675	636,451	1,421,786
Stocks reported by same firms in 1927 (b) .....	82,846	248,759	198,168	91,222	426,116	1,642,613
Percentage of stocks on hand Apr. 1, 1928, compared with 1927 ....	160	106	158	82	149	136

a Including those reporting no stocks on hand. b The totals shown represent the stocks on hand a year ago as reported at that time except that for canners who did not report last year it has been necessary to use the quantity which they this spring estimated as on hand a year ago.

The acreage of tomatoes shown as grown by the firms reporting does not include the acreage grown by those producing only soups, pulp, puree, etc., although such acreage is included in the estimated total acreage grown for manufacturing purposes.

### Business Conditions

The dollar volume of trade during the week ended April 14, as reflected by figures covering check payments, was larger than a year ago, according to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce. The general level of wholesale prices (Fisher's index) increased to the highest point attained since 1926. Loans and discounts of Federal reserve member banks declined slightly from the high point reached in the previous week. The index of stock prices again rose to a high record, while bond prices showed a fractional decline, but were higher than a year ago. The call-money rate continued to rise, while interest on time money was quoted the same as in the previous week. Both rates were considerably higher than a year ago.

### CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise and L. C. L.	Other
Week ended April 7 .....	919,296	371,518	263,234	281,514
Preceding week .....	948,427	378,270	261,633	308,518
Corresponding week, 1927 .....	933,907	380,419	266,516	306,942
Corresponding week, 1926 .....	929,818	310,278	264,370	323,689

### Truck Crop Markets

Low temperatures recently extended clear across the country from Colorado to Virginia and south into some of the trucking sections, the U. S. Market News Service states in its April 17th report. Northern markets also reported colder weather. Colorado peaches and pears were damaged. Mid-western strawberries were rather seriously hurt and berries in other sections may have suffered to some extent. Potatoes in central States incurred some damage. Cooler weather in Imperial Valley has delayed the cantaloupe crop. Vegetable shipments from southern Texas were hindered by unfavorable weather conditions. Combined movement of 24 leading products from all shipping states increased only slightly last week to 12,300 cars, compared with 15,600 a year ago.

Onion prices declined, while southern cabbage reached new high levels. Strawberries were generally lower and apple markets developed a slight weakness. Movement of Florida string beans was getting heavy; shipping-point prices of this crop declined in Florida and Texas. Carrots advanced at southern Texas points. Movement of green peas was starting in Mississippi, but practically all of the recent supply has been from California.

A heavy crop of 7,300,000 crates of lettuce is forecast in four second-early States, chiefly in Arizona and California. Last

spring's production in these States was 4,500,000 crates. Imports of Mexican tomatoes will be heavier than first expected, as the later plantings are doing well. Possibly 3,400 cars will be received from the West Coast of Mexico this season. About 350 cars arrived last week, compared with 335 from Florida. Prices declined somewhat. Tomato plantings in nearly all the spring shipping States are increased over those of last year. Spinach was lower. Virginia stock was showing a wide range in quality, condition and price. Asparagus shipments increased to 400 cars, but prices held firm.

## CARLOT SHIPMENTS

	April 8-14 1928	April 1-7 1928	April 10-16 1927	Total this season to Apr. 14	Total last season to Apr. 16	Total last season
Apples, total . . . . .	323	325	809	88,877	129,029	188,846
Western . . . . .	303	311	312	45,460	52,335	81,871
Eastern . . . . .	218	212	497	43,997	76,694	79,173
Asparagus, total . . . . .	401	321	237	1,866	937	2,142
California . . . . .	321	283	145	1,342	566	1,147
Other . . . . .	80	31	92	144	371	998
Cabbage:						
1928 season . . . . .	347	307	602	4,218	8,821	38,582
1927 season . . . . .	53	47	17	38,582	40,512	40,522
Carrots:						
1928 season . . . . .	134	146	(a)	2,897	(a)	0,290
1927 season . . . . .	43	40	(a)	0,290	(a)	4,252
Pears . . . . .	92	54	309	920	1,018	4,106
Mixed vegetables:						
Domestic shipments . . . . .	736	709	838	11,085	11,588	35,043
Imports . . . . .	14	24	16	326	164	501
Pears . . . . .	14	19	9	18,684	25,199	25,209
Peppers:						
Domestic shipments . . . . .	68	127	61	1,209	738	2,760
Imports . . . . .	12	19	39	661	926	999
Spinach . . . . .	346	337	316	8,212	6,194	9,636
Strawberries . . . . .	401	443	673	1,413	2,360	17,993
String beans:						
Domestic shipments . . . . .	191	89	209	1,942	1,714	6,414
Imports . . . . .	...	...	...	2	...	7
Sweet potatoes . . . . .	239	270	353	21,492	22,898	25,796
Tomatoes:						
Domestic shipments . . . . .	338	325	503	3,273	4,176	32,497
Imports . . . . .	355	423	401	3,916	4,697	3,123

a Unavailable.

## Employment in March

Employment in manufacturing industries was 0.7 per cent greater in March than in February and pay-roll totals were 1.3 per cent larger, according to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The trend of employment in March has been upward in five of the last six years, but the increase in 1928 is greater than in either 1927 or 1926. With these increases, the volume of employment in March, 1928, stood at a higher level than at any time since October, 1927, while pay-roll totals were greater than at any time since June, 1927, with the single exception of October, when they were at the same level as in March.

## Wholesale and Retail Prices in March

The general level of wholesale prices in March was slightly lower than in February, according to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The bureau's weighted index number was 96.0 for March compared with 96.4 for February, a decrease of nearly one-half of 1 per cent. Compared with March, 1927, an increase of 1½ per cent is shown.

Foods as a whole declined slightly. Following are the average wholesale prices on canned foods as compiled by the Bureau:

	March 1927	February 1928	March 1928
Salmon, Alaska red, per doz., factory .....	\$2.675	\$3.200	\$3.169
Peaches, 2½'s, per doz., New York .....	2.300	1.775	1.775
Pineapple, 2½'s, per doz., New York .....	2.150	2.250	2.250
String beans, per doz., New York .....	1.150	1.258	1.250
Corn, per doz., factory .....	.975	1.075	1.075
Peas, per doz., New York .....	1.325	1.325	1.325
Tomatoes, per doz., New York .....	1.500	1.400	1.400
Milk, condensed, per case, New York .....	3.750	3.975	3.925
Milk, evaporated, per case, New York .....	4.500	4.403	4.381

The retail food index issued by the Bureau shows for March 15, 1928, a decrease of two-tenths of 1 per cent since February 15, 1928, a decrease of about 1½ per cent since March 15, 1927, and an increase of a little over 56 per cent since March 15, 1913.

From February 15 to March 15, 1928, sixteen articles on which monthly prices were secured decreased, among which were canned peas and canned tomatoes, 1 per cent. Fifteen articles increased, among which were baked beans and canned corn, 1 per cent.

## Mexican West Coast Vegetable Crops Improve

Unexpected recovery of the Mexican West Coast vegetable crops from adverse weather conditions and diseases, together with the satisfactory condition of the present crop and a forecasted heavy late crop from replanted areas, makes necessary a marked upward revision of the February estimates (See Information Letter 245), according to a report received by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Vice Consul J. Winsor Ives at Mazatlan, Sinaloa. If present satisfactory market conditions in the United States and Canada continue until the end of May, there is a possibility that the season's shipments will reach approximately 6,000 carloads of perishables of all kinds. With replanted areas of unknown extent coming into bearing during April and May, and with future market conditions uncertain, however, a considerable variation above or below this estimate is possible.

There has been an exceptionally strong demand for Mexican tomatoes in both the United States and Canada and prices

have reached a level unparalleled in the past six years, states Vice Consul Ives. As far as can be ascertained, the bulk of the perishables thus far entering the United States has moved to midwestern and eastern destinations, Chicago leading as the largest individual consuming city.

The estimated probable total export production of tomatoes, peas and other perishable vegetables in Sonora, Sinaloa and Nayarit for the 1927-28 season, including anticipated yields from replanted areas, is as follows: Tomatoes, 3,409 cars; peas, 1,601 cars; others, 877 cars; total, 5,887 cars.

Up to March 17, 1928, shipment of tomatoes from the Mexican West Coast totaled 1,439 cars, against 2,376 in the same period last season; peas, 1,050 cars, against 906 last season; and other vegetables, 400 cars, against 332 last season. The total this season to March 17 was 2,889 cars, against 3,614 last season to the same date.

#### Weather and Crops

The week ended April 17 was characterized by stormy and cold weather for the season, with considerable snow in north-central districts, according to the weather bureau's weekly report. Telegraphic reports from various states give the following information of special interest to the canning industry.

*Maryland and Delaware:* Preparations for corn planting well advanced. Early peas coming up nicely on southern Eastern Shore.

*North Carolina:* Truck and strawberries are late. Frost apparently not heavy except to unprotected tender truck in some localities.

*Georgia:* Frost Tuesday morning as far south as Thomasville, but damage though to be insignificant.

*Florida:* Fruits holding well.

*Alabama:* Fruits generally in good condition unless injured in north by Monday's freeze.

*Mississippi:* Progress of truck crops mostly poor.

*Louisiana:* Strawberries and commercial truck mostly in good condition.

*Texas:* All tender truck killed in north and west, and set back elsewhere by cold; further damage to fruit in north and west.

*Oklahoma:* Heavy to killing frosts and freezes with heavy damage to fruits, truck and other tender vegetables; fruits apparently total loss in many localities.

*Arkansas:* Truck, fruits and berries badly damaged in most portions, except apples.

*Kentucky:* Further injury to peaches, plums and pears indicated; other fruits partly dormant and believed safe.

*Ohio:* Fruit buds apparently uninjured except very early varieties in southern counties.

*Indiana:* Damage by freezing reported to peaches and pears in south.

*Illinois:* Apricots and plums injured in central, and peaches and apples in south.



*Wisconsin:* Some damage to fruit trees.  
*Minnesota:* All growth at standstill.  
*Iowa:* Preparations for corn planting at standstill.  
*Missouri:* Apparently nearly all early fruit killed but damage to apples uncertain.  
*Nebraska:* Early fruits badly damaged by freeze.  
*Colorado:* Early fruit in west suffered additional injury from cold.  
*Utah:* Slight further frost injury to peaches, cherries and apples; heavier damage to early strawberries.  
*Washington:* Tree fruits generally show heavy set; weather unfavorable for pollination in West.  
*Oregon:* Some damage to early fruit in west by wet weather and by frost preceding week.  
*California:* Deciduous fruits generally set well.

### Fruit in Cold Storage

Cold storage holdings of fruit on April 1, as reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, were:

		Apr. 1, 1928	Apr. 1, 1927	5-yr. Average
App'les	barrels	500,000	1,286,000	1,182,000
App'les	boxes	4,882,000	4,613,000	4,511,000
App'les	baskets	900,000	952,000	.....
Pears	barrels	5,000	6,000	.....
Pears	boxes	160,000	120,000	.....

### Pending Legislation

*Agricultural Extension Work.*—The Senate on April 16, passed the bill (H. R. 9495) providing for the further development of agricultural extension work, and authorizing an appropriation of \$960,000 the first year, \$500,000 the second year, and thereafter a continuing annual appropriation of \$1,460,000. These funds will be in addition to, and not in substitution for, the funds provided by the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, or sums otherwise annually appropriated for cooperative agricultural extension work. The bill now goes to conference, as the Senate adopted an amendment with respect to the selection of employees in the bill.

*Bureau of Fisheries.*—Representative White has introduced a bill (H. R. 13151) providing for a five-year construction and maintenance program for the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries.

*Chain Stores.*—A resolution (H. R. 14148) has been introduced in the House directing the Federal Trade Commission to investigate and to report on the practices of chain organizations in reference to the purchase and sale of merchandise.

*Commission Merchants.*—The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry has reported favorably the bill (S. 1294) to suppress unfair and fraudulent practices in the marketing

of perishable agricultural commodities in interstate and foreign commerce. The Committee amended the bill as introduced in a number of particulars, which amendments, the Committee's report states, conform to recommendations made by the Department of Agriculture.

The bill provides for the licensing of commission merchants that receive in interstate or foreign commerce any perishable agricultural commodity and any dealers buying any such commodity in such commerce, and of any brokers engaged in the business of negotiating sales and purchases in such commerce of any such commodity.

Under the terms of the bill any persons subject thereto that engage in unfair or dishonest conduct in the business for which they are licensed may have their licenses suspended or revoked by the Secretary of Agriculture, and the bill provides that any person who shall at any time carry on the business of a commission merchant, dealer, or broker without a license shall be liable to a penalty of not more than \$500 for each such offense and not more than \$25 for each day it continues.

*Corn Borer.*—The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry has reported without amendment the Purnell bill (H. R. 12632) authorizing an appropriation of \$7,000,000 to conduct corn borer control work. The bill has already passed the House.

*Fish Investigation.*—The Senate has passed the bill (S. 3437) authorizing the investigation of methods of preventing destruction of fish by ditches, canals, etc. As stated in last week's Information Letter, this bill is identical with H. R. 11796 passed by the House.

*Fish Cultural Stations.*—The Senate on April 13 passed bills establishing fish cultural stations in Montana (S. 1964) and Washington (S. 745), and fish hatching stations in Idaho (S. 1261) and New Mexico (S. 721).

*Foreign Agricultural Service.*—A favorable report has been made by the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry on the bill (H. R. 11074) to promote the agricultural services of the United States in foreign fields. This bill, which has already passed the House, was briefly described in the Information Letter for March 17.

*Labeling Nuts, Fruits and Vegetables.*—A bill (H. R. 13071) has been introduced in the House by Representative Swing providing that nuts, raw or dried fruits, and raw or dried vege-



tables grown outside the United States and its territories shall be deemed to be misbranded if they are not labeled to show the name of the country where grown, and the common name quantity by weight or volume, if commingled with such products grown in the United States. This bill is similar in its purport to the bill (S. 3959) introduced by Senator Shortridge and noted in last week's Information Letter.

*Plant Quarantine Act.*—The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry has reported without amendment the bill (H. R. 484) amending the Plant Quarantine Act, giving additional powers to the employees of the Department of Agriculture in connection with enforcement of the Act. As noted in the Information Letter for March 17, the amendment was introduced at the request of the Department of Agriculture, and is urgently needed, it is stated, to prevent spread of the European corn borer. The bill has already passed the House.

*Postal Rates.*—The Senate Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads has ordered a favorable report on the bill (H. R. 12030) revising postal rates downward, but with an amendment that would restore the 1920 rates on second-class matter instead of the 1921 rates as provided in the bill as it passed the House.

*Potato Tariff Investigation.*—The Senate on April 17 passed a resolution (S. Res. 200) which would authorize an investigation by the U. S. Tariff Commission of the cost of producing Irish potatoes in the United States and the principal competing countries, under the provisions of the flexible tariff act.

#### **Bulletin Issued on Personnel and Welfare Work**

In its report (Bulletin 458) on "Health and Recreation Activities in Industrial Establishments, 1926," the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics presents the results of a study, similar to one made in 1916-17, on the nature and scope of personnel and general welfare work carried on by 430 companies in various industries. The most decided changes since the earlier study was made are additional provisions for medical care and the phenomenal growth of group insurance. The book discusses medical and hospital service, vacations, lunch rooms, indoor and outdoor recreation, disability funds, group insurance, education, thrift plans, etc.

#### **Spanish Tunny Consortium Established**

A consortium has been established between the State and the tunny fisheries in Spain, to include the catch, transportation,

canning and commerce in tunny. The consortium is obligatory, according to the American Commercial Attache at Madrid, will run for 20 years, and may be prolonged by the State for 30 years or more. No foreign capital will be admitted.

#### **Trend Toward Apartment House Living Continues**

Apartment house living, it is said, tends to increase the use of canned foods. For this reason statistics on construction during 1927 are of interest.

In its report on building permits issued in 1927, the Bureau of Labor Statistics points out that of the 224,545 families provided with new dwelling accommodations in 250 cities in 1921, 58.3 per cent were provided for in one-family dwellings and only 24.4 per cent in apartment houses.

In no year since 1921, however, have more than half of the families provided for been housed in one-family dwellings. By 1926 the percentage housed in separate homes had fallen to 40.7 and in 1927 it fell to a new low point of 38.3 per cent. In contrast, the percentage of families housed in apartment houses has shown a steady increase, rising from 24.4 per cent in 1921 to 48.3 per cent in 1927. Two-family dwellings provided for 17.3 per cent of all families housed in new buildings in 1921 and 13.4 per cent in 1927.

#### **South African Preserved Fruit Exports**

The predominance of canned pineapple in the preserved fruit export trade of the Union of South Africa is shown by statistics on the exports in 1926 and 1927 announced by the Food-stuffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. In 1927, the total exports of preserved fruits from the Union of South Africa were 3,521,586 pounds, of which 3,141,945 pounds were canned pineapple. In 1926, out of a total of 3,128,591 pounds of exports, pineapple accounted for 2,882,983 pounds. The bulk of these exports in both years went to the United Kingdom and Canada.

#### **Study of National Distribution Methods and Problems**

A study of national marketing and distribution methods and problems in cooperation with the large manufacturers and distributors will be undertaken, it is announced, by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The Bureau is already conducting surveys of markets in certain regions, and the new work will trace the development of special problems common to all

producers and of the manner and methods with which these producers are meeting these problems. The work will begin in New York City and will later be extended to other parts of the country.

#### **Tariff Investigation of Sweet Peppers Ordered**

The U. S. Tariff Commission, it is announced, has ordered two new cost of production investigations, one on sweet peppers and the other on nitrate of potash.

#### **Information Desired on Packers of Diabetic Foods**

From time to time the Association receives inquiries as to where canned foods for diabetic purposes may be obtained. Such foods are canned without added sugar, and as a rule without added salt. Certain distributors of such foods have come to the Association's attention, but we would be interested in having the names of canners who pack diabetic foods as well as the names of the distributors for same.

#### **Publications of Interest to Canners**

"More Tomatoes from Fewer Acres" is the title of Extension Bulletin No. 44 issued by the Extension Service of the University of Maryland. The bulletin, which is attractively illustrated, presents some of the proven methods for the better production of better quality tomatoes, the recommendations being based on actual field results obtained during recent years. The discussion covers such topics as soil preparation, selection of varieties, cultivation, control of insects and diseases, fertilization, etc.

The paper on "Development of Three Mid-Season Varieties of Cabbage Resistent to Yellows," which appeared in the Journal of Agricultural Research for November, 1927, has been issued in reprint form. The Bulletin presents the essential details of the development of three new *Fusarium*-resistant varieties of cabbage—Globe, Marion Market, and All Head Select—and describes the methods of selection, hybridization, and field testing.

The control of beet seedling diseases under greenhouse conditions is the subject of the quarterly bulletin of the Virginia Experiment Station issued in January. Experiments described in the bulletin showed that seed treatment of beets with *Upsulun* and *Semesan* has proved beneficial in improving the stand of young beets.

The Bimonthly Bulletin of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station at Wooster for March-April contains an article on distance of planting sweet corn to increase yields based on experiments begun in 1924.

#### Correction

In the statement in last week's Information Letter relative to truck crop acreage, the indicated production of peas in the second early states in 1928 should have read 2,071,000 hampers, and the indicated production of strawberries in the early and second early states should have read 160,751,000 quarts.